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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
I. McVEY, et al.Examiner: THORNTON

Serial No.: 10/047,317

Art Unit: 1743 1244

Filed: January 14, 2002

Confirmation: 7063For: **HIGH CAPACITY FLASH
VAPOR GENERATION SYSTEMS**Attorney Docket No.:
MEDZ 2 01221 USCleveland, OH 44114
May 21, 2003

37 CFR 1.97(b) (4) & (c) (1)
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

MAY 27 2003

TC 1700

Dear Sir:

The applicants have recently received an April 30, 2003 International Preliminary Examination Report from the European Patent Office in connection with a corresponding PCT patent application. The IPER cited a new reference, EP0 336 047. The applicants enclose a copy of the cited reference, an appropriate form PTO-1449, and an English-language abstract. An early indication that the cited reference has been considered is requested.

In the reference, peracetic acid or other liquid sterilant 21 is heated 19 to create a vapor which is entrained directly in compressed air from a compressed air cylinder 1 (FIGURE 1) or drawn into a venturi 32 (FIGURE 2) to entrain the vapor in the compressed air. The compressed air is discharged through an inlet port 7 into a sterilization chamber 6 which has a vacuum port 8. In FIGURE 1, the vapor passes through a condenser 10 and a filter 39. Tubing 4 is an aeration line. In FIGURE 2, the vapor passes through a sensor 41 and a filter 39. When the peracetic acid has decomposed sufficient to acetic acid, valves 34 and 44 are closed and valves 36 and 18 are opened to use the compressed gas to expedite expelling the waste liquid from the chamber 31.



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37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) Statement

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

An early allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP

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MAY 27 2003
TC 1700

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, FORM PTO-1449 AND REFERENCE** in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/047,317 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of May, 2003.

By: Hilary McNulty



Page 1 of 1

Subsc. Form PTO-1449		Atty. Dkt No.: MEDZ 2 01221US	Serial No.: 10/047,317				
APPLICANT'S(S') INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT							
		Applicant(s): McVEY, et al.					
		Filing Date: 01/14/2002	Group: 1743				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Initial * 	Document No. AA AB AC	Date	Name	Class	Subcl.	Filing Date	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	Document No. AD AE AF AG AH AI	Date 10/11/89	Country Europe	Class	Subcl.	Translation ? Abstract	
OTHER ART							
	AJ						
	AK						
Examiner:				Date Considered:			
<p>* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>							

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, FORM PTO-1449, AND 1 REFERENCE in connection with U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/047,317 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: _____, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21st day of May, 2003.

By: Mary McNulty